

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AGRE-00 USIA-15 AID-05 EB-08 AF-10 ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1545

UNCLAS ROME 5444

FODAG

PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, OCON

SUBJ: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (WFC) EXECUTIVE DIRECTORSHIP

1. FODAG HAS RECEIVED FOLLOWING NOTE FROM BRITISH EMBASSY:

QUOTE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

1. THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT HAS RECENTLY PUT FORWARD A BRITISH CANDIDATE TO SUCCEED DR. HANNAH AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL.

2. HE IS SIR FREDERICK KEARNS. WHO HAS SPENT HIS ENTIRE CAREER IN THE SPHERE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE AND IS AT PRESENT SECOND PERMANENT SECRETARY AT THE BRITISH MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD. MR. EVAN LUARD, THE BRITISH PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, HAS SPOKEN TO DR. WALDHEIM ABOUT THIS AND IS CONFIRMING THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT FOR THE CANDIDATE OF SIR FREDERICK KEARNS. WE FEEL THAT SIR FREDERICK COULD MAKE A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THIS KEY POST.

3. THE UNITED KINGDOM HAS ALWAYS TAKEN A CLOSE INTEREST IN

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL MATTERS IN RELATION TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. WE WERE ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL UNTIL OUR TERM OF OFFICE CAME TO AN END AT THE END OF LAST YEAR, AND WE SHALL IN DUE COURSE BE SEEKING RE-ELECTION.
END OF QUOTE

2. PECKHAM UK PERM REP INDICATED THAT NOTE WOULD BE

CIRCULATED TO OTHER EMBASSIES IN ROME NEXT WEEK. HE EXPECTS
UK EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WILL ALSO DELIVER NOTE AT ROME TIME
SUPPLEMENTED BY FURTHER BIO DATA.

3. PECKHAM SAID THAT UK GOVERNMENT HAS CHANGED ITS ATTITUDE
TOWARDS WFC AND NOW FEELS IT SHOULD STAY IN EXISTENCE AND HAVE
STRONG LEADERSHIP. ALSO UK REGRETS HAVING MADE DEAL WITH ITALY
WHEREBY THEY GAVE UP THEIR SEAT: UK WANTS TO GET BACK ON COUNCIL
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4. ASKED WHETHER CHANGE IN UK STANCE REFLECTED ANY JUDGMENT
ON SAOMA FACTOR, PECKHAM DECLINED TO COMMENT BUT DID NOT ALTO-
GETHER DISMISS A CONNECTION.

5. COMMENT: WITH INCREASING NUMBER OF CANDIDATES FOR EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR POSITION OF WFC, THE SELECTION OF U.S. CANDIDATE
WITHOUT CREATING ILL WILL, IS GOING TO REQUIRE CAREFUL NEGOTIATING.
GARDNER

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